seminars, conferences and workshops as well as participation of experts in those activities; demonstrations of technologies and application development; etc.

(c) No separate agreement is envisaged at present as the present agreement is a comprehensive one covering all aspects of scientific cooperation, including technology transfer.

Policy on Stem Cell Research

3917. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of formulating a policy on Stem Cell Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is taking any assistance or help from the US on Stem Cell Research; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, "National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research and Therapy" is being formulated jointly by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT). Drafting committee has formulated the draft guidelines and the same will be put on the ICMR website to elicit response from all the stakeholders. Following this the guidelines would be finalized.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. India is not taking any assistance from US on Stem Cell Research. US has shown keen interest in collaborating with India in the area of stem cell research. The Draft Policy document was sent to National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for suggestions. The comments received from NIH have been taken into consideration along with other comments. The programme on stem cell research has also been discussed with US experts.